

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in the case.

It is the belief of the Applicants that the claims of the present invention are directed to a common subject matter and the search and examination of the entire application can be made by the Examiner without serious burden.

Claims 1-2 (Group I) and claims 3-8 (Group II) respectively relate to a method of making a flexible hose and the flexible hose so made. While these groups of claims are directed to a device and the method for fabricating the device, these claims are so similar that serious burden would not be placed on the Examiner to examine both groups of claims simultaneously.

It is respectfully submitted that while serious burden would not be placed on the Examiner to search the common subject, it would also be economically expedient to examine both sets of claims simultaneously, cutting down on time and expense for both the Applicant and the Patent Office. It is therefore respectfully requested that Group I and Group II claims be examined together. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is earnestly solicited.

It is recognized that in order for this paper to be responsive to the Office Action, an election must be made. In the Office Action of July 25, 2006, restriction has been required to one of the following two groups of claims:

(I) Claims 1-2; and

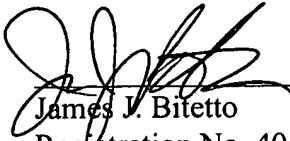
(II) Claims 3-8.

Accordingly, claims of Group (I) are elected for examination at this time with traverse. Should the Examiner not reconsider the present position, Applicant reserves the right to pursue Group (II) claims (3-8) by way of a separate divisional application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement. Early and favorable action of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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